

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 17474 011918Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 PM-05 ACDA-12

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05

ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 /111 W

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P 011759Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3442

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CIA WASHDC

JDC/DOD

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USEEC

VIENNA ALSO FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BE

SUBJECT: US CRITERIA AND JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROVING

EXPORTS OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU): INITIAL

BELGIAN REACTION

REF: (A) STATE 283271; (B) BRUSSELS 16919

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1. EMBOFF CONVEYED CHECKLIST AND NON-PAPER CONTAINING US
CRITERIA AND JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROVING HEU EXPORTS TO
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (HERPELS, DIRECTOR/NUCLEAR
AFFAIRS) ON DECEMBER 1.

2. HERPELS READ OVER NON-PAPER QUICKLY AND OFFERED AS
PRELIMINARY REMARK THE OBSERVATION THAT RETRANSFER POLICY

SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 4 (B) OF REFTEL (A) WAS A CRITICAL ISSUE. IF SUCH REGULATIONS ARE INTENDED TO APPLY TO INTRA-COMMUNITY TRANSFERS, THESE ARE GOVERNED BY EURATOM, AND GOB REGARDS SUCH PROCEDURES AS "SACROSANCT" AND NOT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

3. HERPELS' SECOND SPECIFIC COMMENT CONCERNED THE LIKELIHOOD (PARAGRAPH 11 OF REFTEL A), THAT ELAPSED TIME BETWEEN RECEIPT OF EXPORT LICENSE REQUEST AND ITS ISSUANCE COULD APPROACH 18 MONTHS, A PERIOD SHE SAID WAS VERY LONG. IN THIS CONNECTION, AND ALSO WITH RESPECT TO PARAGRAPH 6, REFTEL A REQUIRING JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF HEU, HERPELS SAID GOB HAD ALREADY PROVIDED REQUIRED JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF HEU IN ITS BR-2 TEST REACTOR AT MOL (SEE EMBASSY BRUSSELS 11703 OF NOVEMBER 30, 1976 AND PREVIOUS FOR DETAILS). HERPELS WILL CHECK HOW LONG BR-2 CAN FUNCTION ON THE 71 KG OF HEU PROVIDED VIA PRESIDENTIAL DECISION IN EARLY MARCH 1977 (STATE 102480), BEFORE IT REQUIRES NEW FUEL CORE. HERPELS WILL SUPPLY MORE DETAILED COMMENTS ON NEW US PROCEDURES AFTER GOB NUCLEAR AUTHORITIES AND INTERESTED AGENCIES HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY U.S. CRITERIA.

4. AS GENERAL COMMENT, HERPELS SAID GOB IS "EXTREMELY WORRIED" ABOUT DIRECTION OF US NUCLEAR POLICY, AS EVIDENCED BY WHAT SHE REFERRED TO AS A RECENT "AVALANCHE" OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISIONS REOPENING LONG-SETTLED POLICY ISSUES. SHE SAID MFA DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS INTENDS TO CONVOKE ECOM COUNSELOR NEXT WEEK TO PASS OFFICIAL BELGIAN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S DEMARCHE OF NOVEMBER 22 ON US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL B). SHE WARNED THAT QUESTION OF US NUCLEAR POLICY WAS REGARDED BY GOB AS EXTREMELY SERIOUS, AND THAT SHE COULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF GOB UNDERTAKING FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. OLSEN

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